

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

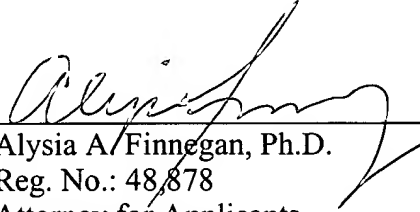
This supplemental amendment is submitted concurrently with an Appeal Brief, appealing the final rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 10, 17, 19-23 and 31. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.33, amendments filed with an appeal brief may properly be admitted to rewrite dependent claims in independent form. Claim 7, which was objected to in the Final Office Action dated September 22, 2004, is amended herein to present the claimed subject matter in independent form. As there are no other outstanding objections or rejections applicable to claim 7, this amendment places the claim in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding rejections have been overcome by the amendments herein and remarks above. Accordingly, Applicants maintain all claims are in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, she is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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